



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY
BOB ODOM, COMMISSIONER



December 28, 2004

RANDAL JOHNSON
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

ASSISTANT
COMMISSIONERS

**Agricultural &
 Environmental Sciences**
 Matthew Kepphiger, III
 P.O. Box 3686
 Baton Rouge, LA 70821
 (225) 925-3770
 Fax: 925-3760

**Agro-Consumer
 Services**
 Manning Broussard
 P.O. Box 3098
 Baton Rouge, LA 70821
 (225) 922-1341
 Fax: 922-0477

**Animal Health
 Services**
 Ternel Delphin
 P.O. Box 1951
 Baton Rouge, LA 70821
 (225) 925-9962
 Fax: 925-4103

Forestry
 Paul D. Frey
 P.O. Box 1628
 Baton Rouge, LA 70821
 (225) 925-4600
 Fax: 922-1356

**Management
 & Finance**
 Skip Rhorer
 P.O. Box 3481
 Baton Rouge, LA 70821
 (225) 922-1255
 Fax: 925-6012

Marketing
 Bryce Malone
 P.O. Box 3934
 Baton Rouge, LA 70821
 (225) 922-1277
 Fax: 922-1289

**Soil & Water
 Conservation**
 Bradley E. Spicer
 P.O. Box 3554
 Baton Rouge, LA 70821
 (225) 922-1289
 Fax: 922-2577

Via Facsimile
STANDARDIZATION SECTION
 Fresh Products Branch
 F&V Programs
 Agricultural marketing Service
 U.S. Department of Agriculture
 1400 Independence Ave., SW
 Room 1661 South Building, Stop: 0240

RE: October 26, 2004 Notice in Federal Register,
 Pages 63132 and 63133

Gentlemen:

The Louisiana Sweet Potato Commission supports the referenced proposed rule to revise the United States Standards for Grades of Sweet Potatoes to add a new grade to the standards, U.S. No. 1 Petite.

The Louisiana Sweet Potato Commission is a state agency within the Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry, created by state statute, for the purpose of expanding the market for sweet potatoes through increased consumption. Funding for the Commission's advertising, promotion, public relations and research programs comes from all Louisiana sweet potato farmers and canners. Adoption of the proposed rule would support this effort by allowing the opportunity to increase sales of a good quality product, of a smaller size, that is not currently allowed to be called a No. 1 Grade. Many wholesale buyers of sweet potatoes will only purchase a No. 1 Grade; therefore, the proposed change to a smaller size would generate additional sales for the industry.

Thank you for allowing the opportunity to comment on the proposed rule. The Commission has also supported the proposed rule through the efforts of The United States Sweet Potato Council.

Sincerely,

Bryce Malone

Bryce Malone
 Executive Director
 Louisiana Sweet Potato Commission